

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
4
5

6 IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED
7 BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR
8 THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 14295

8 APPLICATION OF KOCH EXPLORATION
9 COMPANY, LLC; CONOCO PHILLIPS
10 COMPANY; BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL
11 AND GAS COMPANY, LP; AND ENERGEN
12 RESOURCES CORPORATION FOR AN
13 INCREASED DENSITY PILOT PROJECT
14 IN THE BASIN-FRUITLAND COAL GAS
15 POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

16 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

17 EXAMINER HEARING

18 April 16, 2009
19 Santa Fe, New Mexico

20 BEFORE: DAVID BROOKS: Hearing Examiner
21 TERRY WARNELL: Technical Advisor
22 RICHARD EZEANYIM: Technical Advisor

23 This matter came for hearing before the New Mexico
24 Oil Conservation Division, David Brooks Hearing Examiner,
25 on April 16, 2009 at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department, 1220 South St. Francis
Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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	FOR THE APPLICANT:	EARL DEBRINE, ESQ.
23		Modrall Sperling, PA
		P. O. Box 2168
24		Albuquerque, NM 87102
25		

1 HEARING EXAMINER: We'll call Case No. 14295,
2 the Application of Koch Exploration Company, LLC, Conoco
3 Phillips Company, Burlington Resources Oil and Gas
4 Company, LP, and Energen Resources Corporation for an
5 increased density pilot project in the Basin-Fruitland
6 Coal Gas Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico.

7 Call for appearances.

8 MR. DEBRINE: Mr. Examiner, Earl DeBrine with
9 the Modrall Sperling Firm for the applicants.

10 HEARING EXAMINER: And you have how many
11 witnesses?

12 MR. BRUCE: We have four witnesses today.

13 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. Other
14 appearances? Very good. Would the witnesses please stand
15 and identify themselves for the record?

16 MR. CONNOR: My name is Morgan Connor.

17 MR. BAACK: Glenn Baack.

18 MR. ALEXANDER: Alan Alexander.

19 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Wright.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. Would you please
21 swear the witnesses?

22 (Note: All witnesses were placed under oath.
23 by the court reporter.)

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Do you have any statement to
25 make before you start with your witnesses?

1 MR. DEBRINE: No, Mr. Examiner. In the interest
2 of judicial economy, we're just going to start right in
3 and hopefully get done.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: Very good. You may call your
5 first witness.

6 MORGAN CONNOR,
7 the witness herein after first being duly sworn
8 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. DEBRINE:

11 Q. Please state your name.

12 A. Morgan Connor.

13 Q. Mr. Connor, where do you live and by whom are
14 you employed?

15 A. I live in Denver, Colorado, I'm employed by Koch
16 Exploration Company, LLC, as its land manager.

17 Q. Have you previously testified before the
18 Division as a landman?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. And were your credentials and testimony accepted
21 by the Division in that matter?

22 A. Yes, they were.

23 MR. DEBRINE: We would ask that the Examiner
24 accept Mr. Connor as an expert in petroleum land matters.

25 HEARING EXAMINER: He is so qualified.

1 Q. Would you give the Examiner a brief summary of
2 what Koch, Burlington, Energen, and Conoco are trying to
3 accomplish by this application?

4 A. If we can go back for one second, I just want to
5 point out that the four companies that are basically the
6 parties before you today, we're spearheading the
7 presentation as Koch Exploration.

8 Alan Alexander will be speaking on behalf of
9 Conoco Phillips and Burlington Resources. We also have
10 Energen Resources, which has joined us in our application,
11 however, has not put in an appearance for today but has
12 sent a letter of support.

13 Our Fruitland Coal increased density pilot
14 project is in Township 29 North, Range 9 West, San Juan
15 County, New Mexico.

16 And basically what we're doing here today is,
17 the four companies, Koch Exploration Company, Conoco
18 Phillips Company, Burlington Resources Oil and Gas
19 Company, LP, and Energen Resources Corporation as the
20 applicants, are seeking to authorize to establish the
21 Fruitland Coal pilot program to drill up to eight
22 increased density wells.

23 The purpose of the pilot is to test the merits
24 of increased density in portions of the low productivity
25 area.

1 During the implementation of our pilot program,
2 the applicants will acquire valuable data to better define
3 the Fruitland Coal reservoir, including layer pressure,
4 pressure data, better definition of coal properties from
5 additional density logs, incremental recovery estimates
6 and degree of reservoir acceleration utilizing reservoir
7 stimulation.

8 MR. DEBRINE: And Mr. Examiner, in front of you
9 is a notebook of exhibits with both the technical exhibits
10 and the summary exhibits that are going to be on the
11 Powerpoint as well. It's the black notebook to your left.
12 I don't know if it's easier to look at that or strain your
13 eyes looking at the screen.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Actually, I can see the
15 Powerpoint because I don't need my glasses to see that.

16 THE WITNESS: We do have some things that are in
17 your exhibit book that are not on the Powerpoint. I'll
18 try to point those out to you.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: If you'd call those to my
20 attention when you get to them.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 A. Just to give you a little historical background,
23 the special rules and regulations for Basin-Fruitland Coal
24 Pool low productivity area were adopted in October 2002.

25 Alan Alexander is going to go a little more in

1 depth regarding the history of spacing and Fruitland Coal
2 high productivity and low productivity areas.

3 But the net effect of the rules as they
4 currently exist is four wells per section, or two wells
5 per standup -- typically per standup 320.

6 HEARING EXAMINER: Right. Actually, I was the
7 legal examiner for the last hearing that resulted in the
8 present Fruitland Coal spacing order. So I'm familiar
9 with the existing rules.

10 THE WITNESS: Anything you want us to skip, just
11 let us know in the interest of time.

12 A. The next slide will show you the area that we're
13 going to be covering. Basically, we have two half
14 sections and full sections that are part of our pilot
15 area.

16 And the map here shows the buffered area around
17 our pilot area. So, we're proposing to drill one well in
18 the two quarter sections that I'm pointing to now in
19 Sections 20 and 21, four wells in the west half of Section
20 28 and the east half of Section 29, and then the northwest
21 quarter of Section 33, and the southwest quarter of
22 Section 32.

23 We did notice everybody in the buffer area as
24 we're required to regarding this hearing. We have West
25 Largo who is here in the blue. In the yellow is Koch

1 Exploration. In the light green is Energen. And in the
2 maroon-orangish color is going to be Conoco Phillips, or
3 is going to be Burlington Resources.

4 One reason I brought up the area in blue, is I
5 would like you to know that recently we had a meeting in
6 front of the local representatives of the NMOCD and the
7 BLM down in Aztec, New Mexico.

8 Burlington Resources, Conoco Phillips, Energen
9 and ourselves all had representatives there, as did West
10 Largo, as did the BLM NMOCD local representatives.

11 And we have letters to read into the testimony
12 from them and they're part of your package. If you can go
13 on to the next slide.

14 This is one thing that we discussed in our
15 meeting with the NMOCD and the BLM is that we'll do
16 everything that we can to minimize surface damages for
17 this pilot.

18 The locations that we've chosen which are on
19 this map, basically we presented to the BLM and the NMOCD
20 without any objection. We're trying to in a couple of
21 instances drill wells that are going to be deviated, just
22 to drill them from an existing pad.

23 We're also looking to drill adjacent roads, and
24 we're also looking to make as small a footprint as
25 possible by taking advantage of existing locations.

1 We've had representatives of the BLM out to the
2 majority of these locations and they say that they will
3 work within these confines. Plus, we had a verbal from
4 the BLM that these locations are acceptable to them for
5 this pilot program.

6 Q. Mr. Connor, could you turn to Exhibits 4 and 5?

7 A. Okay. Exhibit 4 is a letter of support that we
8 received from Steve Henke with the BLM. It was addressed
9 to Mr. Fesmire. And that's in your package. I don't need
10 to read that into the --

11 Q. No, that's fine.

12 A. Okay. The next letter is a letter of support,
13 Exhibit 5, from Energen stating that even though they're
14 not making testimony today, they're fully supporting this
15 application and would recommend its approval.

16 Q. Mr. Connor, did you receive any other statements
17 of support that aren't included in the --

18 A. Yes, I did. We received an e-mail from Steve
19 Hayden with the NMOCD.

20 THE WITNESS: As a matter of fact, Mr. Brooks,
21 it was addressed to yourself.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, it was. I received it
23 also.

24 THE WITNESS: Would you like me to read it into
25 the testimony or do you have a copy?

1 HEARING EXAMINER: I have a copy of the letter.
2 We will just make it a part of the record.

3 Q. What was the date of the e-mail?

4 A. The date of the e-mail was April 14th. And it
5 starts off as --

6 HEARING EXAMINER: It should be here.

7 Q. I believe, Mr. Connor, you can just read the
8 contents of the e-mail into the record.

9 A. Dated on March 31, 2009.

10 "NMOCD Aztec hosted a meeting with
11 representatives from Koch Exploration,
12 Conoco Phillips Company, Burlington
13 Resources, Energen Resources, West Largo
14 Corporation, the BLM Farmington field
15 office petroleum management team.

16 "The applicant's presented their
17 proposal for a limited infill pilot test
18 in the Basin Fruitland Coal Gas Pool.

19 "The evidence presented indicates
20 that there is no interaction between
21 parent and present infill wells and that
22 EUR for the pool in the area may be
23 increased by further infill.

24 "We have no objection to this
25 application."

1 Steve Hayden, telephone number.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, I found this while you
3 were reading it into the record. So I'll offer it too,
4 and we can make it Exhibit 5-A.

5 MR. DEBRINE: Mr. Examiner, we would tender
6 Exhibits 4 and 5 into evidence.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 4 and 5 are
8 admitted.

9 A. Again, just to show you, this is our pilot area,
10 this is our buffer area. You can see that this well will
11 be a directional well.

12 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, for the benefit of
13 making it clear on the record, on Exhibit 2, the pilot
14 area is outlined in a black dashed line?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: And the buffer area is
17 outlined in the solid red line?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.

20 A. I don't know how much detail you would like me
21 to give, but --

22 Q. Just orient the Examiner with regard to the
23 general location of the project.

24 A. Again, the general location of the project here,
25 in Sections 20 and 21, in Sections 28 and 29, and in

1 Sections 32 and 33, the one thing that we're showing in
2 this that you might have a little trouble seeing on the
3 exhibits that we printed out and handed out is the 660
4 foot buffer.

5 All of our locations with the bottom hole
6 location are going to be legal locations taking into
7 account the 660 setback.

8 HEARING EXAMINER: From the outer boundary of
9 the pilot project?

10 THE WITNESS: Well, yes, sir, from the unit
11 boundaries. This location that I'm pointing to now is the
12 east half of Section 20, will be 660 feet from the half
13 section line of Section 20 to be at a legal location.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: Is that correct.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Yeah.

17 Q. Have you prepared an exhibit that shows the
18 footages of the proposed well?

19 A. Yes, we have. If you'll turn to the next page
20 in Exhibit 7 in your package, what we're showing here is
21 the eight proposed infill wells, their section location,
22 the company that would be responsible for drilling those
23 wells, the distance from the parent wells, their surface
24 location, and in three cases, their bottom hole location
25 where we're going to be drilling a proposed deviation.

1 We have the estimated lat/long locations of both
2 the surface and the bottom hole. We also have the
3 directional distance at the lateral. Whether it's a
4 shared pad is indicated in the third to the last column.
5 Whether it's adjacent to roads, and again, whether it's a
6 deviated hole or an irregular location as indicated in the
7 far right-hand column.

8 These are estimates. We have not surveyed all
9 the locations. But as I said, the majority of which we've
10 been out there, our field representatives have gone out
11 there with BLM representatives to try to mitigate the
12 issues of surface to serve for these locations.

13 Q. Mr. Connor, were Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7
14 prepared by you or under your supervision?

15 A. Yes, they were.

16 MR. DEBRINE: We would move the admission of
17 those exhibits, Mr. Examiner.

18 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, 1 through 7 are
19 admitted.

20 MR. DEBRINE: No further questions.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. I don't believe I have
22 any questions. Do you have any questions, Mr. Warnell?

23 MR. WARNELL: No questions.

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Very good. The witness may
25 stand down. You may call your next witness.

1 ALAN ALEXANDER,

2 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
3 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. DEBRINE:

6 Q. Would you state your name?

7 A. Alan Alexander.

8 Q. By whom are you employed, Mr. Alexander?

9 A. I'm employed by Burlington Resources, who is a
10 subsidiary of Conoco Phillips, in Farmington, New Mexico.

11 Q. There has been a suggestion that you previously
12 testified before the Division for the Commission in these
13 type of matters; is that true?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. And have your credentials been accepted as an
16 expert landman in those matters?

17 A. They have.

18 MR. DEBRINE: We would tender Mr. Alexander as
19 an expert in petroleum land matters.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: He's so qualified.

21 Q. Mr. Alexander, could you just sort of set the
22 background for this project in the context of the
23 promulgation of the rules for this pool and what we're
24 seeking to accomplish within the additional increased
25 density project?

1 A. Yes. This first slide that we're looking at
2 here is the actual pool boundaries that were established
3 by the original order for the Basin Fruitland Coal Pool.

4 On it shown in blue are the actual pool
5 outlines. I just want to note that it covers portions of
6 Sandoval, San Juan and Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

7 And just for location purposes, I've included in
8 the green outlines all the federal units in the San Juan
9 Basin.

10 On the next slide I wanted to just briefly
11 review, I have in the solid area up in the northern part
12 of the San Juan Basin, this is the high productivity area
13 that is also defined by the series of orders in the Basin
14 Fruitland Coal Pool.

15 Q. Just so the record is clear, by the next slide,
16 you're referring to Exhibit 9 in the package?

17 A. Yes, that is correct. And for location
18 purposes, I had put a red polygon where the project area
19 is located in reference to the pool.

20 Also, we've included on there the Pictured
21 Cliffs outcrop which is more generally used to define
22 Fruitland Coal than the actual townships that were defined
23 in the order for the Fruitland Coal.

24 On the next slide, which is Exhibit 10, I've
25 given the Commission the series of orders that represent

1 the progress that we've made today in the Basin Fruitland
2 Coal Pool. I just wanted to highlight of a few of the
3 things since the Examiner is fully aware of pool rules.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: It looks like this exhibit
5 was omitted from my notebook.

6 MR. DEBRINE: I've got an extra copy.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Very good. You may
8 continue.

9 A. We started forming the pool rules back in 1986.
10 That's when the Basin Fruitland Coal Committee was
11 originally formed. The committee has met off and on
12 through the years, and we brought the application to the
13 Division back in 1988 which established the temporary pool
14 at that time under Division Order R8768.

15 Since that time, several milestones were
16 obtained in the process. It was decided to develop the
17 original pool on 320 acres, although if you read the
18 original documents, there was some discussion that maybe
19 the pool should have been developed on 160 acres. But the
20 committee thought it was prudent to start with the larger
21 spacing.

22 Since that time, various orders in the pool have
23 -- we have worked the spacing down in two areas. In the
24 high productivity area, currently the rules do allow an
25 infill well in the high productivity area, but we'd have

1 to notice the offset operators and there is a chance for a
2 hearing if anybody would care to protest in the high
3 productivity area.

4 In the low productivity area, there is allowed
5 an increased density well without a hearing and without
6 any further work from the Division.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: I haven't observed that there
8 have been any hearings under that. Is that the --

9 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge. We've
10 drilled a few of the wells in the high productivity area.
11 We did the notice work and nobody had protested to date.
12 However, just a few wells have been drilled. I think it's
13 acknowledged that in the high productivity area, 320 acre
14 spacing is sufficient. So we drilled just a very few
15 wells up there.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

17 A. And as a matter of course, we've worked the
18 setbacks in that pool and currently they're standing at
19 660 feet from the spacing unit boundary and 10 feet from
20 any internal boundaries. That's the current status of the
21 pool.

22 On the next slide -- and I'm not sure the --
23 this is probably just a continuation of Exhibit 10. So
24 the next page of Exhibit 9 is simply a continuation of all
25 the orders that were issued.

1 We're currently up to Order R8768F, and that was
2 the final order that finally allowed a second well to be
3 drilled in the high productivity area with the right for a
4 hearing. So that's really the progression of the Basin
5 Fruitland Coal orders to date.

6 Q. Mr. Alexander, does Burlington have experience
7 with regard to other pilot projects that were designed to
8 gather information for determining optimal well density
9 for the Basin Fruitland Coal?

10 A. Yes, we have.

11 Q. And has the information generated by those
12 projects been important to the coal bed methane gas
13 committee in it's continued study of the reservoir to
14 determine optimal spacing rules for the specific areas in
15 zones within the pool?

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether the
18 information generated by this project will provide useful
19 information to the committee, the BLM and the Division to
20 determine the optimal spacing to effectively recover the
21 gas resources present in the pool and prevent waste?

22 A. Yes. My opinion is that the information will be
23 very helpful to the committee.

24 MR. DEBRINE: Mr. Examiner, we would ask that
25 you admit Exhibits 8 through 10.

1 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 8 through 10 are
2 admitted.

3 MR. DEBRINE: No further questions.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: I have no questions. Do you
5 have any questions, Mr. Warnell?

6 MR. WARNELL: If you were to go a few miles
7 north up into Colorado, what's their spacing on the Basin
8 Fruitland Coal?

9 THE WITNESS: Most of that spacing is now on 80
10 areas. There's a few pieces of land up there that are
11 not, but nearly all of it is right adjacent to the
12 Colorado/New Mexico border.

13 MR. WARNELL: Thank you. That's all.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. The witness may stand
15 down. You may call your next witness.

16 GLENN BAACK,
17 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
18 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. DEBRINE:

21 Q. Please state your name.

22 A. Glen Baack.

23 Q. By whom are you employed, Mr. Baack?

24 A. Koch Exploration.

25 Q. And how long have you worked for Koch?

1 A. Just about 28 years.

2 Q. And all 28 years with Koch?

3 A. No, I worked with Texaco prior to that, about
4 four years with Texaco. But 32 years total professional
5 experience.

6 Q. And what is your experience and duties?

7 A. I work with our producing assets. I look after
8 the development and drilling of some of these assets. I
9 also participate in the acquisition and divestiture of
10 certain assets.

11 I've worked with Koch Exploration in their San
12 Juan Basin properties since approximately the mid '90s
13 when we actually started developing the Fruitland Coal.

14 Q. Have you testify before the New Mexico Oil
15 Conservation Division before?

16 A. Yes, I have.

17 Q. And were your credentials as a geologist
18 accepted in those proceedings?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR. DEBRINE: We would tender Mr. Baack as an
21 expert in petroleum geology.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: He's so qualified.

23 Q. Mr. Baack, did you prepare some exhibits to
24 explain to the Examiner with regard to the geologic
25 formation as it affects the pilot project that we're

1 presenting here today?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And could you refer to those exhibits and
4 explain your analysis and the conclusions that you arrived
5 at?

6 A. Yes, I will. I'll be giving a brief discussion
7 on the geologic setting and structural picture of the
8 Fruitland Coal and the increased density pilot area, and
9 I'll speak from these bullet points and the hyphenations
10 below them on the geologic summary and I'll add some
11 detail to the discussion.

12 As you see, the first bullet point states that
13 Fruitland Coal deposition in the pilot project area is
14 highly variable and this is primarily due to the Fruitland
15 depositional environment. We'll take a look at the first
16 slide.

17 Q. You're referring to Exhibit 11?

18 A. This is Exhibit 11. And this slide shows the
19 tectonic setting of the Fruitland Coal deposition in an
20 ancestral San Juan Basin area during cretaceous times,
21 which occurred about 70 to 80 million years ago.

22 What this slide shows is the Cretaceous Seaway.
23 It's often called the Western Interior Seaway. This is a
24 shallow sea that bisected the American continent at that
25 time in a general north-south direction ranging from the

1 Gulf of Mexico all the way to the Arctic Ocean.

2 It's a shallow sea, approximately 300 feet
3 average in depth, and resulted from a general structural
4 subsidence of the -- what is now the Great Plains and
5 Rocky Mountain areas, in addition, to a general rise in
6 sea level due to a warmer climate during that period.

7 The San Juan Basin is identified on this map as
8 the -- it's outlined in red along the western and lower
9 red outline and identified by a text box. It's located
10 along the western shoreline of the seaway. And it's in an
11 area described on this map as Mires, M-i-r-e-s. That's
12 the dark and light green shaded areas.

13 The definition of Mires is a swampy or marshy
14 area. In effect, during the cretaceous times that's
15 depicted by this map, the ancestral San Juan Basin area of
16 the terrain in that area was a low-lying drainage area
17 similar to what south Louisiana is now.

18 And over a period of several million years, the
19 water level in the seaway receded and this resulted in a
20 regressive sequence of deposition across the ancestral San
21 Juan Basin area.

22 Peat layers from organic materials were
23 deposited in shallow bays and lagoons, and the effects of
24 heat and pressure from subsequent burial transformed those
25 peat layers into the Fruitland coal units that we

1 recognize now.

2 Take a look at the next slide, and this slide
3 helps demonstrate some of the disconnected nature of the
4 coal -- or of some of the coal.

5 Q. You're referring to Exhibit 12 now?

6 A. Exhibit 12. This is a net coal thickness map
7 and it's a -- the map is based on 10 foot contours. The
8 map shows, as it was discussed earlier, the outline of --
9 The blue lines represent the outline of the increased
10 density area. It's also depicted on this map as the 660
11 foot setbacks.

12 There's a cross section line depicted here from
13 A to A prime that we'll discuss a bit later and includes
14 the cross-section of three wells. The red gas well
15 symbols represent Fruitland Coal coal bed methane wells,
16 active Fruitland Coal methane wells. The red diamonds
17 depict the proposed pilot well locations.

18 This map was derived from approximately 50
19 subsurface data points that had formation density well
20 logs. The coal units were identified on those wells using
21 a 2.0 grams per cc cutoff.

22 The coal thickness on this map within the
23 increased density area ranges from a high of 80 feet in
24 the northeast corner into a low of approximately 50 feet
25 in the extreme southern portion of the increased density

1 pilot area.

2 Q. And are these characteristics fairly typical of
3 what you might expect in a low productivity area?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. And is that one of the reasons that this pilot
6 project area was selected?

7 A. That is correct. This is also consistent with
8 the regional Fruitland Coal depositional model which is a
9 highly dynamic peat slough environment rapid lateral
10 facies changes that are bisected by a complex channel
11 system.

12 Although the Fruitland coals were deposited
13 nearly throughout the San Juan Basin area, the actual
14 depositional process was a complex interaction of
15 transgressive/regressive cycles of the seaway. In
16 general, it was receding, it was a recessive motion. But
17 there were short periods of transgression where the coal
18 depositions were interrupted by back and forth movements
19 of the cretaceous seaway.

20 In addition to that, there were points of
21 erosion from channels and streams that meandered through
22 the swampy areas that eroded the peat deposits in certain
23 zones, and also, there's different types of vegetation
24 that create variable deposition, thicker or thinner, and
25 also, uneven compaction loads that cause thickening and

1 thinning of the coals zones that were subsequently
2 performed.

3 Q. Have you prepared an exhibit that shows or
4 demonstrates some of the discontinuity of some of the
5 individual coal seams?

6 A. Yes. That would be Exhibit 13, I believe, that
7 cross-section. This cross-section shows some of the
8 variability in the coals. It's a cross section that
9 contains three wells in a north/south direction, south
10 being on the left where the letter "A" prime is.

11 The three wells that are shown here are showing
12 two -- two formation tops are shown, the Pictured Cliffs
13 zone on the bottom, the Fruitland Coal zone on the top.

14 The well logs that are shown on this cross-
15 section are formation density logs where the gamma ray is
16 on the left tract of -- it's on the left of the depth
17 tract, and a bulk density curve is to the right of the
18 depth tract.

19 The Fruitland Coal seams are identified by a red
20 shaded area, and again, are based on a cutoff of 2.0 grams
21 per cc as measured from the well log.

22 The total thickness of these three coal cross-
23 section wells range from a low of 53 feet to the left to
24 74 feet on the right. You'll notice that some of the coal
25 seams -- in particular, the lower coal unit, the basal

1 coal unit, seems to correlate across all three wells and
2 it is a relatively consistent marker throughout the local
3 area -- or the regional area for that matter.

4 But you'll also notice that some coal seams are
5 seen in only two of the wells, seem to correlate across
6 only two of the wells, some coals seem to seam only in one
7 well.

8 Here's an example of one coal seam that does not
9 seem to carry to the two end wells. This is visual
10 example of how the coal seams -- there is a variable
11 depositional pattern to these coal seams.

12 In addition to the termination of coal unit coal
13 seams, there's also a higher complexity -- more complexity
14 involved in it. The internal structure permeability of
15 the coal is affected by changes in ash content, which is
16 the noncarbonatious material that is often deposited with
17 the peat, sands on silty material, and also in the natural
18 content of the plant material.

19 Some of the material is more woody in content or
20 resinous or waxy, and those two things can affect the gas
21 content and the permeability of the coal, which in turn
22 affects the production rate of -- the gas production from
23 the coal units.

24 The middle bullet point on the geologic summary
25 states the unpredictability of individual coal seam

1 thickness and the disconnected nature of some of the coal
2 seams in the pilot project area cause significant
3 variability in the volume of gas recovery. That would be
4 this particular bullet point.

5 This discussion here ties into the production
6 variability of the wells within the increased density
7 pilot area.

8 The parent well cumulative production within the
9 pilot area ranges from a low of .2BCF to 1.7 BCF. These
10 parent wells were all drilled in the early to mid '90s. I
11 think they were all drilled before 1995.

12 They were all completed in the same completion
13 process. Individual coal zones were perforated and the
14 well was fracture-stimulated, sometimes with multiple
15 stages, but more than one stage.

16 The production variability is indicative of the
17 coal variability in the sense that the coal's not
18 connecting -- not being totally connected from well to
19 well, and also in the differing coal -- physical
20 properties of the coal which have a slightly higher gas
21 content from one well to another and slightly different
22 permeabilities from one well to another within the coal
23 units.

24 In addition to the cumulative production,
25 there's also a difference in the variability between the

1 parent and the increased density wells, the parent wells
2 drilled in the pre-1995, the increased density wells
3 drilled in the 2003 period.

4 The flow rates from individual wells within the
5 increased density range from a high of 350 MCF a day down
6 to a low of 30 MCF a day. Again, this variability is
7 indicative of the differences in the coal thickness, the
8 coal connectivity of the -- between wells and the physical
9 properties of the coal.

10 By this discussion, a statement can be made that
11 production variability does not support a conclusion that
12 the Fruitland Coal reservoir is one, big connected tank;
13 otherwise you would expect the individual wells to perform
14 more evenly or have a more consistent production rate and
15 cumulative production totals among wells in the same era.

16 And the last statement I'd like to make is the
17 third bullet point, and it's based on the deposition and
18 compaction history of the coals in the pilot project area.
19 The proposed locations can be expected to lower
20 abandonment pressures within individual coal seams and
21 increase gas recovery and reduce waste.

22 Q. Mr. Baack, were Exhibits 11 through 13 prepared
23 by you or under your supervision?

24 A. Yes, they were.

25 MR. DEBRINE: We would move for the admission of

1 these exhibits, Mr. Examiner.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, Exhibits 11 through 13
3 are admitted.

4 MR. DEBRINE: No further questions.

5 HEARING EXAMINER: I have no questions.
6 Mr. Warnell?

7 MR. WARNELL: No questions.

8 HEARING EXAMINER: The witness may stand down.
9 You may call your next witness.

10 ROBERT WRIGHT,
11 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
12 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. DEBRINE:

15 Q. Please state your name.

16 A. Robert C. Wright.

17 Q. Mr. Wright, who do you work for?

18 A. Koch Exploration Company, LLC.

19 Q. And how long have you worked for Koch?

20 A. Four years.

21 Q. And what are your duties with Koch?

22 A. Senior reservoir engineer.

23 Q. Have you previously testified before the
24 Division?

25 A. Yes, I have.

1 Q. And were your credentials and testimony accepted
2 in those proceedings?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. DEBRINE: Mr. Examiner, we would tender
5 Mr. Wright as an expert in petroleum engineering.

6 HEARING EXAMINER: Very good. He's so
7 qualified.

8 Q. Mr. Wright, have you prepared a study with
9 regard to the engineering aspects of this application that
10 will assist the examiner in evaluating whether the
11 application has merits?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. Would you please briefly discuss those
14 conclusions for the examiner?

15 A. Yes, I'd be pleased to. I guess I'd like to
16 start with reference to Exhibit 14. First to give an
17 outline of my testimony give you a flavor of what you'll
18 be seeing, I'll start with testimony that's of a
19 qualitative nature that describes why we would anticipate
20 incremental recovery from increased density.

21 This is going to be followed by a more
22 quantitative analysis looking first at a fairly high level
23 of all Fruitland wells in Township 29 9. There's 133
24 wells, parent and increased density wells that we will
25 look at from a high level. This will be followed by a

1 more localized level looking at 23 wells in the pilot
2 project area.

3 And then finally, we'll show some conclusions as
4 to original gas and place data and overall recovery
5 factors that demonstrate the poor yields within the pilot
6 project area based on current spacing.

7 Q. Mr. Wright, is the presentation you're offering
8 here today basically the same presentation that was made
9 on March 31st for the BLM and OCD officials?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Go ahead and proceed.

12 A. Okay. If we move on to the qualitative
13 discussion, Exhibit 15, the first three bullet points on
14 this slide are taken from testimony in the June 2003
15 hearings that led to the current spacing rules that we
16 have in both the high productivity and low productivity
17 areas.

18 Specifically, a number of items referred to with
19 Item 1 is Dr. Jeffrey Baumer's testimony from Burlington
20 Resources, and items noted with 2 are Gary Krump's
21 testimony from Devon Energy. These points that were made
22 several years ago are still relevant to our current
23 hearing.

24 And starting with the first bullet point, coal
25 bed methane gas recovery is markedly different from a

1 conventional reservoir in that a very substantial portion
2 of CBM gas recovery occurs at very low reservoir
3 pressures.

4 Increased drilling will tend to reduce the
5 average reservoir environment pressure which is critical
6 to recovery. The lower the abandonment pressure, the more
7 gas is liberated and produced. Even very small decreases
8 in reservoir pressure can liberate significant quantities
9 of gas.

10 With that, I will refer to the next draft, which
11 is a comparison of a conventional reservoir in this
12 pressure environment as compared to a CBM reservoir.

13 In red is what would show the pressure depletion
14 characteristics of a conventional reservoir. In black is
15 the CBM reservoir as defined by isotherm data that we were
16 using in our analysis.

17 What is shown on the Y axis is the reservoir
18 pressure ranging from 0 to 1,000 PSI. We are estimating
19 the initial reservoir pressure for our area based on the
20 average reservoir depth of below 2,200 feet at 895 PSI.
21 That is based on a .4 PSI per foot gradient.

22 Initial reservoir pressures were not recorded
23 when these wells were drilled, so we are utilizing an
24 accepted gradient by the industry of .4 PSI per foot.

25 On the X axis it shows the percent of recovery

1 as the reservoir depletes. I'll point out that starting
2 from 900 -- In a conventional reservoir, if you were to go
3 to a 50 percent pressure depletion, that would be roughly
4 around 450 PSI. The conventional reservoir would have
5 depleted 53 percent of its reserves.

6 By comparison, a coal bed methane reservoir
7 would have only recovered some 27 percent. A further
8 reduction of pressure to 73 percent would result in 50
9 percent depletion in a coal bed methane reservoir as
10 compared to 75 percent in a conventional reservoir.

11 So this is highlighting that a really
12 substantial amount of potential reserves remain at very
13 low pressures, below 250 PSI..

14 I might point out that we anticipate that with
15 good reservoir management, we would hope to see an
16 abandonment pressure somewhere in the range of 100 PSI,
17 which on the isotherm data that I'm presenting would
18 result in an overall recovery factor of about 75 percent
19 in this area.

20 If we go back to the prior slide, some other
21 qualitative points would be that even if you were dealing
22 with a homogenous design, additional gas would be
23 recovered through increased density drilling. Again,
24 that's primarily due to lowering the abandonment pressure.

25 And as Mr. Baack testified a few minutes ago,

1 the Fruitland Coal is certainly not a homogenous zone, so
2 we would anticipate that there would be other factors that
3 would lead to additional recovery which are Bullet .3,
4 that incremental gas would be recovered from zones not
5 intercepted by existing wells, from zones not effectively
6 in communication with existing wells or from pockets
7 within producing zones that are isolated by permeability
8 restrictions.

9 The final point I'd make on Exhibit 15 is that
10 the incremental reserves that would be recovered through
11 increased density would prevent waste and they do
12 represent a very valuable resource.

13 With that we'll move to the quantitative
14 discussion starting with Exhibit 17. What we'll show in
15 the next couple of graphs are actual results to date from
16 133 Fruitland wells in Township 29 9.

17 Of the 133 wells, 69 are original parent wells,
18 and then in addition, 64 wells are increased density wells
19 beginning with their development in June 2003.

20 Skipping to the next graph, Exhibit 18, this is
21 a rate/time graph. We have rate platted on the Y axis MCF
22 per day. On the other Y axis we have a producing well
23 count shown in black and water rate associated with the
24 wells in blue. The solid red line shows the entire
25 history of the parent wells.

1 As I mentioned, there are 69 wells in total that
2 are depicted under this curve. And the well count that is
3 associated are solid black diamonds. They're this curve
4 shown here. The other curve, a red dashed line, are the
5 -- you see the rampup of the production of the increased
6 density wells as the dashed red line. And the associated
7 well count are hollow blank diamonds.

8 And then water production is shown in blue
9 diamonds in solid for the parent wells. A little bit hard
10 to see here, but the ones that are not filled in in blue
11 are water associated with the increased density wells.

12 What you see from the parent wells is a ramping
13 up in production and continued to ramp up even as the well
14 count reached its current level of 69 wells.

15 There was still a slight inclination of
16 production up until very recently within about the last
17 perhaps year and a half or so. The parent wells are now
18 on a very, very modest decline of around 1 per.

19 Just looking at this particular slide,
20 there's -- I would have difficulty seeing that there
21 are -- is any effect from the offsetting increased density
22 wells that were drilled. I'm not seeing signs on this
23 level of any type of interference.

24 And with that, I might refer to the next
25 exhibit, Exhibit 19. On this one we've removed the well

1 count and water production and are showing only the parent
2 well production and the increased density well production.

3 What has been included in this is a solid black
4 line. This is a hypothetical line that would represent if
5 25 percent of the production from the increased density
6 wells had come at the expense of the parent wells; that
7 would be the black line that would result showing a
8 significant decline in trend and a big gap between actual
9 and the hypothetical.

10 Clearly, we have not seen this to date, and
11 again, that reinforces my position that based on this
12 analysis, it's very difficult to see any degree of
13 interference between the parent and increased density
14 wells.

15 Moving on to Exhibit 20, we will now go into a
16 more localized review of the pilot project area, a very
17 similar type of analysis evaluating -- Moving to the next
18 page. This is 12 parent wells shown in the solid red
19 color and 11 of the increased density wells as a dashed
20 line in red. And again, we see very similar performance
21 in a more localized level as we saw for the entire
22 township.

23 And again, skipping to Exhibit 21, I have added
24 the inclusion of a hypothetical line with 25 percent
25 interference that again, we're not seeing that affect on

1 the parent wells.

2 So again, from a more localized level in the
3 vicinity of the pilot wells, again, I don't see evidence
4 of interference.

5 The next thing I'd like to refer to is
6 Exhibit 22. And from here we're going to go into more
7 depth looking at the specific performance of the four
8 parent wells within the pilot project area to see if we
9 can discern any level of interference in a very detailed
10 level map.

11 And with that, let's skip to the next slide,
12 Exhibit 23. Again, we have some rate/time plats. I think
13 perhaps in your hard copy -- I'm not quite sure what
14 the -- well, the scale shown in MCF to date appeared as a
15 black rectangle which should show there's some MCF per day
16 on the Y axis.

17 And these are rate/time plats as we looked at
18 previously on the higher levels. You have the parent
19 wells shown in the red. There are two dashed curves that
20 are associated with the parent well. One is a blue dashed
21 curve that would be an extrapolation of data prior to the
22 infill wells being drilled.

23 A red dashed line would be a more current
24 extrapolation based on the most current data that would
25 take into account the post-increased density well period.

1 The other things that appear on these graphs are
2 the offset increased density wells in black, blue, I think
3 an orange color, and I think -- well, I'm losing my
4 definition on colors here. But anyway, there's up to four
5 offsetting increased density wells for each of the four
6 parent wells.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: The orange and red turned out
8 to be about the same color.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. They're pretty close, I
10 know.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: The first time I was going to
12 tell you I didn't see the dashed blue line, but the reason
13 is because -- the lower right, it's very close to the
14 dashed red line.

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 A. But the conclusion on three of these is that the
17 blue and red dashed focus that I made basically overlies
18 each other.

19 So a clear conclusion from these three wells is
20 no interference effects are being seen as an adverse
21 performance impact on the parent well.

22 We do see a slightly different result on the
23 lower right one which is the Koch Exploration Aggie State
24 32-1, although I do not believe that that is a result of
25 interference, as I will explain.

1 If we go to Exhibit 24, this will give a more
2 detailed view of this. The blue dashed line, again,
3 extrapolated back to this sort of data is how that was
4 arrived at.

5 And then the red dashed line -- actually a
6 little bit difficult to fit -- a best fit to this, there
7 was a bit of a downturn in production followed by more of
8 an uptake in production. In fact, our production levels
9 are now back to this blue dashed line.

10 This well is noted from the production rates,
11 the highest rate seen on the well is probably on the order
12 of 50 to 60 MCF per day. Quite a poor well in comparison
13 to other wells in the pilot area.

14 You can see that the offsetting increased
15 density wells are in fact substantially better than the
16 parent well in this particular case. Because of this well
17 being a rather poor well, we believe it's some of the
18 factors of the adverse performance that we seem to be
19 seeing that seem simultaneous with the onset of production
20 from the increased density wells may be caused by factors
21 such as compressor limitations.

22 We have a small enough unit on this that we
23 typically cycle gas through our other wells. In this
24 case, the compressor limits us in doing that. And that
25 can cause a certain amount of water loading to occur that

1 may have some adverse impact and affect only the
2 production levels.

3 Also, because it's a rather poor producer, we
4 had less active field supervision on this well than we do
5 some of our better producers.

6 On weekends, for example, if the compressor were
7 to shut down for some reason, we don't send a field
8 technician to go back and restart the well on a weekend.
9 It's not advantageous from an economical perspective to do
10 that.

11 And then as I pointed out earlier, the well in
12 fact now has come back to rates that basically now are
13 fitting the pre-increased drilling forecast.

14 So my conclusion on this is that although you
15 see some slight separation here between the red dashed
16 line and the blue, I don't believe it's due to
17 interference.

18 And so the overall conclusion of this portion of
19 the analysis is that whether we're looking at the whole of
20 Township 29 9 or the more localized and detailed review of
21 the pilot project area, I'm not seeing evidence of
22 conclusive interference.

23 The next thing I'd like to get into is working
24 in the direction of establishing a regional gas-in-place
25 instruments and ultimately arriving at overall recovery

1 factors for the parent and increased density wells.

2 To do that, we need to examine some sorption --
3 as received sorption isotherm data that we had available
4 to us that we utilized in our examination.

5 We had a total of nine samples from five wells
6 in the vicinity of the pilot area. I'll be showing a map
7 of the general location of these five wells in relation to
8 the pilot project area in a moment. But we'll go ahead
9 and skip to the isotherm graph next.

10 And this is Exhibit 26. In the key down at the
11 bottom there, we identified the wells as Wells A through
12 E. And then generally there's anywhere from one to two
13 samples in each of these five wells.

14 For the case of a -- of the first sample of the
15 well, it would be denoted as a solid colored curve, such
16 as this one on the low end, or there's this solid red
17 curve, solid purple line, and so on. Those would be
18 representative of the first sample that was available to
19 us.

20 If there is a second sample, it would be noted
21 as a long dashed line; and then there is one that had two
22 samples as a shorter dashed line.

23 Now, what's represented here are the actual data
24 as analyzed by the laboratory. They are a little hard to
25 see on the screen, but there are small symbols that

1 reflect the actual data points. The solid curves or the
2 curves without the data points are defined by the
3 coefficients that the laboratory measured.

4 The next slide shows the general location of
5 these five wells to the pilot project area. This in
6 yellow is the pilot project area. The furthest well that
7 we had data is roughly 11 miles away, and you can see we
8 actually had a well within the pilot project area.

9 So again, we're no more than 11 miles at the
10 furthest point -- one point in the pilot project area, and
11 the other points being in the 3 to 6 mile range from the
12 project area.

13 And the next thing that I'll show you is how we
14 arrived at our gas content that we've used in the original
15 gas-in-place calculations.

16 If you skip to Exhibit 29, this is a very
17 similar plot of the same isotherm data that we've already
18 looked at, but rather than showing the data points for
19 specific wells and their linear coefficients are the
20 resulting isotherms from the linear coefficients. I've
21 plotted all the data on one curve.

22 And then from there what I did is I developed a
23 low side case, a high side case, and a most likely case.
24 The low side case shown in red is -- What I did is, I used
25 linear coefficient that matched the lowest data points.

1 For the high side case, I developed linear coefficients
2 that matched the highest data points.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Now, is this graph in --

4 THE WITNESS: Exhibit 29.

5 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Go a head.

6 A. The curve in black, the most likely case is
7 based on linear coefficients that is essentially right in
8 the middle. For our evaluation, we have chosen to use the
9 low side case, which for our reservoir pressure of 895 PSI
10 -- again as I mentioned earlier, based on .4 PSI per foot
11 for our average reservoir datum of 2209, would result in a
12 gas content of 186 SCF per ton. And that is the data we
13 used in our evaluation for original gas in placement.

14 Next, moving to Exhibit 30, we begin our
15 discussion of original gas in place and recovery factors
16 for the parent and increased density wells.

17 The next thing I'd like to show you would be our
18 original gas-in-place estimates on Exhibit 31. Actually,
19 it will be in table -- Let me refer to Exhibit 31 first,
20 which is a map that is kind of a key to Exhibit 32.

21 This shows our pilot project area and each of
22 the spacing units within the pilot project area. This is
23 a key that will help you in looking at the next table,
24 Exhibit 32.

25 This table shows how we've arrived at original

1 gas in place. We start from the basic definition of
2 original gas in place for a coal bed methane reservoir,
3 which is a function of this constant times area, the
4 thickness of the coal, in situ density, and then the in
5 situ gas content.

6 So the table, we start with the spacing units
7 labeled from A to L. And I'll point out that L has an
8 asterisk on it, which is to denote that in this particular
9 spacing unit, only the original parent well was drilled to
10 date.

11 The increased density well has been applied for
12 by West Largo. As I understand, they have a permit that's
13 been granted and they're going to be drilling it soon.
14 But because that well has not yet been drilled, we
15 attribute only half of the spacing unit, 153 acres
16 associated with that spacing unit since the increased
17 density well has not yet been drilled.

18 The spacing unit size is shown in the next
19 column. Several of the units are standard-sized units at
20 320 acres. Some of them are slightly smaller, the
21 smallest being at 288 acres for Spacing Unit E..

22 The next column shows the Fruitland Coal
23 thickness, and this was based on the map that Mr. Baack
24 showed earlier. The range and thickness, the lowest data
25 points at 53 feet in Spacing Units J and K at 53 feet, and

1 then going to a high of 76 feet in spacing unit feet.

2 The next column is the in situ density that
3 we've used in the calculation. Again, this is based on
4 map data from Mr. Baack.

5 The next column is using the 186 SCF per ton,
6 but we have adjusted it based on depth. Where you see
7 values less than 186, that means that the reservoir at
8 that spacing unit is at a shallower depth than the average
9 reservoir data of 2209.

10 And on the south end, you see some values that
11 are higher than 186, 194 in Spacing Units J and K. This
12 would indicate that those spacing units have a relatively
13 higher -- or deeper depth associated with those spacing
14 units.

15 Using the formula that I referred to previously
16 for each of these spacing units, we can then arrived at a
17 gas in place for each spacing unit. In totaling that for
18 the summation or the pilot project area is 98 BCF in
19 place, which works out to an average of 8.6 BCF for 320
20 acres.

21 The next thing we'd like to move to is going to
22 be Exhibit 33, the methodology that I've used to establish
23 the ultimate recoveries for parent and increased density
24 wells.

25 The first bullet point I'll refer to indicates

1 that there were some issues that made this somewhat
2 problematic in trying to assign EURs for each well.

3 One of the wells I referred to here is BR's
4 Hamner 9. In fact, that's Conoco Phillips' well. I
5 apologize for not catching that.

6 That parent well, along with seven of the
7 increased density wells, are currently reflecting an
8 inclining production volume. The balance of the other
9 wells have very nominal inclines, something probably less
10 than 3 percent.

11 So my approach was -- I used the same approach
12 on all wells in assigning EURs. And I did it in three
13 ways. I assigned a low side, a most likely, and a high
14 side EUR.

15 There's a lot of verbiage here that -- I'll read
16 the verbiage and then the following graph will explain it
17 as a picture.

18 But for the low side case, I honored whatever
19 the current trend was for two years. So if you had a well
20 such as the Hamner or the seven wells that are showing
21 inclining production, I maintained that inclining
22 production for a two year period.

23 If it was the on decline, then I would honor
24 that trend. And then after two years, if it switches to a
25 3 percent decline for two years, it's followed by a 5

1 percent decline after three years. And then a limiting 10
2 percent decline thereafter to an economic limit of 450 MCF
3 per month.

4 The most likely case is very similar to the low
5 side case, but instead of limiting us to a 10 percent
6 decline, I used a 7 1/2 percent decline as showing a
7 decline.

8 And then finally, the high side case, all the
9 same parameters except for using -- capping it at no more
10 than a 5 percent decline. At this point, I think it would
11 be easiest to look at Exhibit 34. That will give a
12 pictorial view of what we're describing.

13 Okay, this is -- the EUR methodology is referred
14 to for a specific well. The Energen Federal 29 9 28 2S,
15 would have been an increased density well. In solid red
16 is the history of that well. It began in early 2006. As
17 you can see, this well is on an inclining trend.

18 So for all cases, the most likely, the high side
19 and low side, I honored that trend for two years. Then we
20 go to a 3 percent decline, slightly steepen it to 5
21 percent, and then this is where the deviation occurs
22 between the pre EUR methods.

23 The low side case has the 10 percent decline,
24 the most likely case at 7 1/2 percent, and the high side
25 case of 5 percent.

1 If we go back to Exhibit 33, after analyzing all
2 the wells in this manner, I concluded that my most likely
3 assessment was the best ones to use for our recovery
4 calculations.

5 And some of the primary reasons behind why I
6 felt that was the case, is that the most likely forecast
7 results in a reserve-to-production ratio of about 15.

8 In this, when we go over to an R over P ratio,
9 in this case, you have the R being the gross remaining
10 reserve in the denominator, the P factor would be an
11 average 12 month production, what it's done in the past 12
12 months. If you hold that production constant, it will
13 arrived at an R over P ratio of about 15. And this is
14 consistent with industry reserve lives in the Rocky
15 Mountain region.

16 If you look at public data from companies who
17 report this type of data in the Rocky Mountain region,
18 this would be a very consistent result for an expected
19 reserve life.

20 Now, keep in mind that an R over P ratio of 15
21 does not represent an actual reserve life. Because the P
22 in the denominator is going to decline over time. In
23 actuality, a reserve life with an R over P ratio of 15
24 would generate a reserve life for this group of wells in
25 the range of 35 to 45 years from this point going forward.

1 Now, keep in mind that the parent wells have
2 been on production since 1990, nearly 20 years of
3 production, so that my most likely forecast is suggesting
4 a reserve life from inception for parent wells of in the
5 55 to 65 year range. So it's -- I believe it's giving it
6 a very reasonable reserve life for these wells.

7 So we've used these most likely EUR results and
8 we can now add those to the original gas-in-place table,
9 first for the parent wells, then for the increased density
10 wells.

11 Moving on to Exhibit 35, the left-hand portion
12 is in the same table we looked at earlier which is the
13 original gas in place. We had 98 BCF in total.

14 To that we've added four columns for the parent
15 wells. The first column is cumulative production to date
16 which is about 13.6 BCF for the 12 parent wells. The
17 gross remaining reserve column that shows up next is the
18 result of the EUR methodology that I just explained that
19 would suggest that there is 13 BCF remaining for this
20 group of wells, approximately the same amount that has
21 been produced to date.

22 And then the next column shows the R over P
23 ratio for each of the wells with an average of 14 for the
24 group. Adding the individual cum production and gross
25 remaining reserve together arrives at an EUR for each well

1 that in total represents 26.6 BCF.

2 If we divide that EUR recovery by the gas in
3 place, that would suggest that the parent wells would
4 recover 37 percent of the original gas in place.

5 We follow a similar methodology for the
6 increased density wells which is shown on Exhibit 36.
7 Again, building on the table we had from before, we have
8 the gas-in-place figures, the EUR for the parent wells,
9 and highlighted in the black rectangle would be the
10 results for the increased density wells.

11 Again, we have cumulative production, the
12 remaining reserve that I've assigned to each well, an R
13 over P ratio, which for this group of wells is slightly
14 higher, around -- approaching 18, 17.6.

15 And the EUR that results for this group of wells
16 is 14 BCF, which is around 14.3 BCF, 14.3 percent of the
17 original gas in place. If we combine the results of the
18 overall EURs for parent and increased density wells, the
19 results on these final two columns to the table, that
20 would show an overall recovery of 4.6 BCF representing
21 only 41 percent of the original gas in place, far short of
22 the 75 percent that I alluded to -- From when we looked at
23 the isotherm data from a CBM recovery is that this is
24 clearly substantially less and I feel that would reflect
25 the overall poorer recovery that we are seeing based on

1 current spacing.

2 The next thing I'd like to point out on
3 Exhibit 38 are some reasons that we believe our analysis
4 is actually in fact very conservative. In particular, the
5 gas in place that we have used, it is based on the low
6 side gas content that I mentioned, the 186 SFC per ton.

7 We could have chosen to use the most likely case
8 or high side case. We decided to be conservative and
9 that's resulted in a conservative original gas-in-place
10 estimate.

11 Also, we are using a density cutoff of 2 grams
12 per cubic centimeter as highlighted in -- by these
13 references that are shown on the bottom portion here.

14 There are a number of industry references that
15 cite that low quality coals above 2 grams per CC do in
16 fact hold gas. Another point is that the current isotherm
17 data that we utilized, they're based on pure methane.

18 Now, the gas that we produce out of here does
19 contain some heavies, such as carbon dioxide, methane,
20 propane and some other smaller quantities of other
21 heavies.

22 The point about these heavies is that in looking
23 at the next graph, you have -- This is a thinner sorption
24 affinity of sorbates, methane being the one our isotherm
25 data is based on shown in green.

1 Q. And you're referring to Exhibit 39?

2 A. Yes, that's correct. Some of the heavies have a
3 stronger sorption characteristic, such as ethane shown
4 here, substantially higher sorption than methane.
5 Propane, similar. And we have CO2 here and propane here.

6 If you're able to analyze isotherm data taking
7 into account the average reservoir properties of the gas
8 being produced, it would then account for more gas than
9 what is shown on a pure methane basis.

10 There are some practical issues on trying to
11 measure isotherms with these heavies because of factors
12 such as -- well, in trying to do the analysis, some of
13 these would become a liquid at relatively low pressures
14 and it becomes problematic in trying to account for it.

15 But from a qualitative standpoint, the
16 expectation would be that there would be more gas if we
17 were able to do an analysis of isotherm that would account
18 for the heavies.

19 Going back to Exhibit 38, the other thing I'd
20 point out is that, again, we've referred to the
21 gas-in-place estimates based on .4 PSI per foot as an
22 initial reservoir pressure gradient.

23 There's one reference that we found that had
24 cited that there may be pressures in the basin where the
25 original pressure could be at a higher pressure gradient

1 than .4 PSI per foot. And in fact, part of the pilot
2 project area is located in one of these areas that we felt
3 that it might in fact have been a higher pressure. That
4 would have resulted in more gas in place.

5 So again, the conclusion here is that our
6 analysis, we believe, has been very conservative,
7 particularly in respect to gas in place.

8 The last exhibit I'd like to refer you to is
9 Exhibit 40. And this is an analysis of increased-density
10 well economics which will show that the incremental
11 reserves associated with increased density is a valuable
12 resource.

13 We start off with gas price starting from a 12
14 month NYMEX strip price from last month, which was around
15 \$5. There's a number of adjustments that are made and we
16 get down to a net price at the least level at \$3.79 per
17 MCF.

18 If we apply that price to an average EUR of the
19 increased density wells, which is 1,276, it would result
20 in a gross revenue for each location of around \$4.8
21 million.

22 Subtracting out royalties, production and ad
23 valorem taxes, operating costs of \$1.05 per MCF and the
24 drilling costs at \$400,000, would result in a net revenue
25 for each location of \$1.8 million.

1 The next thing on an economic result perspective
2 for the average of the 1,276 million cubic feet would be a
3 rate of return of about 20 percent, net present value at
4 10 percent of 366,000.

5 Now, to account for possibly lower recoveries
6 than the 1,276, the average EUR of the increased density
7 wells to date are some sensitivities at 80 percent, 70
8 percent and 60 percent.

9 So even at 60 percent going to 766 million cubic
10 feet, would still result in a greater return of nearly 19
11 percent and \$235,000 on a discounted basis.

12 So the conclusion is that we are looking at
13 economical wells.

14 Mr. DEBRINE: That concludes our presentation,
15 Mr. Examiner. We only have one other exhibit, which is
16 our notice affidavit regarding the application.

17 We are asking in the application and consistent
18 with Exhibit 4 of the discussions that we have had with
19 the BLM that the Division grant the pilot project and
20 allow a three year period for the pilot study from the
21 date of the order with annual reporting at the local level
22 to the BLM and the Division concerning the results of the
23 investigation that will reveal through the study.

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Are you tendering you
25 remaining exhibits then?

1 MR. DEBRINE: Yes. We would ask that you admit
2 Exhibits 14 through 41.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 14 through 41 are
4 admitted. And I have no questions. Mr. Warnell?

5 MR. WARNELL: That was quite a presentation. I
6 feel that I know a lot more about the Fruitland Coal now
7 than I did and I used to log it as a young engineer. I
8 have no questions.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: Very good. If there is
10 nothing further, then Case No. 14395 will be taken under
11 advisement.

12 MR. DEBRINE: Mr. Hearing Examiner, we would ask
13 that we prepare a proposed order for the Division
14 concerning this matter, and if we could have ten days to
15 do that?

16 HEARING EXAMINER: That will be acceptable.

17 MR. DEBRINE: Thank you.

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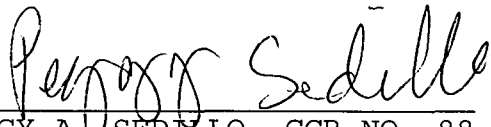
I hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 14295.
heard by me on 4-16-2009.
David K. Brody Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)
4

5 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
6

7 I, PEGGY A. SEDILLO, Certified Court
8 Reporter of the firm Paul Baca Professional
9 Court Reporters do hereby certify that the
10 foregoing transcript is a complete and accurate
11 record of said proceedings as the same were
12 recorded by me or under my supervision.

13 Dated at Albuquerque, New Mexico this
14 25th day of April, 2009.
15
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17

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19 _____
20 PEGGY A. SEDILLO, CCR NO. 88
21 License Expires 12/31/09
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